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STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

November 1, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: Region 1 and 4 Local Education Agency (LEA) Superintendents
Region 1 and 4 Intermediate School District Superintendents
Region 1 and 4 Public School Academy Administrators

FROM: Michael W. Radke, Ph.D., Director
Office of Field Services 

SUBJECT: Consolidating Funds in a Title I, Part A Schoolwide Program
for 2012-13

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is providing an opportunity for schools in Regions 1 and 4 (see attached list of districts in Region 1 and 4) to participate in a Schoolwide Consolidation opportunity that was piloted in Region 3 in 2011-12. Additional information about this opportunity will be available on the Office of Field Services [website](#) by clicking on the "Schoolwide Consolidation" link:

The Schoolwide Consolidation Opportunity:

- is authorized under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 2001 as an alternative means to better serve all children in a school by intentionally coordinating instructional programs and consolidating financial resources rather than operating categorical programs as separate services, and ensures that all students, particularly those who are low achieving, demonstrate proficient and advanced levels of achievement on the state's academic achievement standards [ESEA 1114(a)(1)],
- provides flexibility in spending Title I funds by giving schools great latitude in determining how to spend their Title I, Part A funds [ESEA 1114(a)(2)],
- permits Title I schoolwide schools flexibility to consolidate other federal funds in addition to Title I, Part A, in support of the schoolwide program. In Michigan, for the purposes of this pilot, Title I, Part A, Title II, Part A, Title III, Part A, Subpart 1, Title VI, Section 31a, and Local Tax Revenue and State Foundation Allowance funds may be consolidated.

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As MDE finalizes the process for Regions 1 and 4 to volunteer for Schoolwide Consolidation of funds, several critical participation requirements are important to consider.

Consolidation will require:

- increased emphasis on a high-quality schoolwide school improvement plan based on a thorough comprehensive needs assessment,
- evidence of a solid school-level planning and decision making process,
- strong internal fiscal and programmatic controls.

Based upon the advice of the United States Department of Education (USED), MDE has developed a set of criteria that will make a district **ineligible** to have its Schoolwide schools participate in this consolidation opportunity.

1. Single audit findings that have been inadequately addressed by the district and/or have resulted in the recapturing funds in the prior two years.
2. The district is operating in deficit.
3. The following monitoring findings:
 - Final expenditure report deviations that result in forced carryover,
 - Multiple years of final expenditure report deviations,
 - School-level decision making has not been demonstrated,
 - Schoolwide plans are not approvable after more than two attempts,
 - Lack of written, adopted and implemented policies and procedures that address allowable use of funds/cost, contract management, equipment management, monitoring, procurement, suspension and debarment, personnel costs, federal time and effort and conflicts of interest,
 - Inadequately addressed previous monitoring findings.
4. Application procedures and processes that result in:
 1. History of late applications,
 2. Applications that are not submitted in substantially approvable form.

Periodic updates will be shared through the Office of Field Services' website on the status of the Region 1 and 4 rollout.

If you have any questions related to this memo, please contact Leah Breen, Regional Field Services Manager, at 517-373-3743 or breenl1@michigan.gov.

Attachment